

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: Reservoir Dogs

Other Known Title: Not Stated

Format: Console Game

Director/Author: Not Stated

Producer/Publisher: Not Stated

Country of Origin: UK

Language: English

Applicant: The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.

Distributor: Atari Australian

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| Classification: | Objectionable. |
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Descriptive Note: Not Applicable.

Display Conditions: Not Applicable

Date of entry in Register: 07 July 2006

Date of direction to issue a label: Not Applicable

OFLC No: 601341

Unexcised version of publication:

| | Component | |
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| Game: | Reservoir Dogs | |

Excisions: No Excisions Recommended

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

The console game entitled *Reservoir Dogs* is classified as:
Objectionable.

Reservoir Dogs is a third-person "shooter" console game based on a popular film. The storyline and characters remain similar. The player controls a range of violent criminal characters who try to escape from the police after a bungled diamond heist. Internecine wrangling ensues after a "mole" is suspected amongst the criminals.

The mainstay of the game lies in killing large numbers of police and SWAT team members. To assist in this regard the player can take members of the public and police force hostage, forcing the surrender of armed interference. Of greatest concern is the player's ability to torture hostages, execute them, and execute the police after they have disarmed. The game seems built around the capacity to perform callous and violent behaviour with little mitigating or contextual factors to distract from a relentless and gratuitous onslaught. While the game involves fictional, animated characters, it is its showcasing of the most extreme forms of violence and brutality for the purposes of entertainment, which the player is encouraged to perform, that succeeds in its tending to promote and support the infliction of extreme violence and extreme cruelty.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the application of the classification criteria. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression, but this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications falling under s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 are deemed to be objectionable. The classification is also a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression that reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that tend to promote and support the infliction of extreme violence and extreme cruelty.